

# Safe Routes to School Bicycle Parking Guide



**Get the most out of federal Safe Routes to School Funds**

Cover photo courtesy of Bikes Belong Coalition

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# What is Safe Routes to School?



If you remember a time when almost all kids biked or walked to school, you're not alone. A generation ago, it was a natural part of growing up. In the last thirty years, things have changed. Heavy traffic, big roads, and dangerous intersections are a few reasons that less than 15% of kids now bike or walk to school compared to more than 50% in 1969.

In the last five to ten years, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs in a few communities across the US have been making it easy and safe for kids to get out of their parents' cars and school buses. Their success rate has been exceptional.

**Federal Safe Routes to School funds do not require matching local funds.**

In 2005, Congress included provisions that can help SRTS programs to succeed in primary and middle schools in every state. This **\$612 million** is funded through the federal transportation bill and will be distributed from 2005 to 2009, with no state receiving less than \$1 million per year. Each state will appoint a SRTS coordinator to serve as a central point of contact. State, regional, and local agencies, as well as non-profit organizations will be able to apply for and receive funds that go to both infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. Federal SRTS funds do not require matching local funds.

To find out more, visit The National Center for Safe Routes to school:

[www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org)

Each state's coordinator, or interim coordinator, can be found there as well:

[www.saferoutesinfo.org/contacts](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/contacts)

## Examples of projects & programs that can qualify for funding\*

### Infrastructure:

- Street crossing safety improvements
- Other spot improvements in existing pedestrian/ bike ways
- Creating new pedestrian/ bike ways
- Traffic calming
- Signing
- Bicycle Parking
- Lighting
- Other

### Non-Infrastructure:

- Teacher training on SRTS
- Student education programs on SRTS
- Distribution of SRTS information to parents/ family
- Crosswalk guard training
- Share the Road
- Other

*\*Examples only- see your state's SRTS application or talk to your SRTS coordinator for what projects/ programs qualify in your state*

# Developing Your Safe Routes Bike Parking Project

## Identify Current Needs and Problem Areas



- Take stock of current bike usage. Conduct a bike count over three typical days during good weather.
- Are bikes parked so they are easily accessible?
- Are bikes parked where they are supposed to be parked and not locked to trees, posts, benches, etc.?



No support for bikes - disorderly and too close together



Installed on poor surface



Not enough racks - Locked to trees!



Racks way too close together - No room to get bikes in or out

Current parking capacity:

### DAY 1

Number of bikes:

Bikes locked to trees, posts, etc.:

### DAY 2

Number of bikes:

Bikes locked to trees, posts, etc.:

### DAY 3

Number of bikes:

Bikes locked to trees, posts, etc.:

## Just getting started?

### Basic Rule of Thumb:

A typical school should expect to provide one bike parking spot for every 10-15 students.

## Choosing the Right Location

Bike racks are often relegated to the back of a building or tucked to the side, out of sight. This discourages the use of the rack as it is not convenient for the biker. Racks placed out of the view of passers-by allow thieves more time and privacy to steal. Place bike racks by a main entrance where it is not only convenient for bicyclists, but in a visible area. Not only does the higher visibility cut down on theft, but also raises the profile of your bike program.

Some may think having a bike rack in a high-profile location is not aesthetically pleasing. This can be solved by picking a design that complements the building. Custom designed bicycle racks can be an inexpensive and functional way to solve this issue.



*Hidden away at back of building*



*By front door or other high traffic area*



*Racks placed by a side entrance*

Many schools will have one central location where students keep their bikes. However, if your building has several entrances, it is often more effective to split your bike parking up by putting smaller racks at different entrances. You may find that certain locations get more use than others. If you use freestanding models of bike racks, you can even move the racks around to accommodate demand.

*This school has a central location with plenty of sheltered bike parking*



## Consider Unique/Creative Solutions

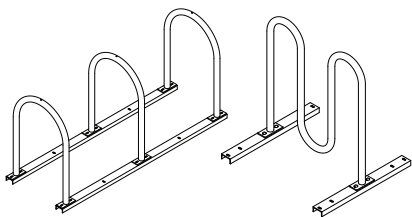
### Bike Shelters

A major reason that kids do not bike to school is the inadequate protection provided for their bikes. Bike shelters offer outdoor bicycles a higher level of protection from the elements than racks left uncovered. A shelter's roof keeps rain and snow off of bikes and their riders, and can even be customized to include repair stations, air pumps and other tools useful to riders.



### Sweeping and Snow Removal

If snow removal and sweeping are issues for you, consider using free-standing bike racks. Freestanding racks can be moved around for easier grounds maintenance.



*Freestanding racks such as the models shown at left may be moved periodically to allow for sweeping, plowing and other grounds maintenance*

### Bike Rooms

Don't assume that you can park bikes only outside your facility. Consider dedicating an extra room indoors for bike storage. Indoor bike rooms can offer a greater level of security as well as better protection from the elements.



### Personalize It!

Add your own school's logo to increase the visibility of your bike parking program and to show school spirit.



# Choosing the Right Bike Rack

Choosing the right bike rack for your application is important but fairly easy. Here are a couple questions you need to answer:

- 1) How important is security? Is theft an issue at your school?
- 2) How many bikes will you need to park and what space is available?
- 3) What will the rack be placed upon? Asphalt, grass, pavers, concrete?

## 1. Security



### Basic Security - Cable Lock

- Widely used among younger kids
- Compatible with all types of racks
- Not very secure



### High Security - U-Lock

- More popular with older kids and urban areas
- Not fully compatible with grid style racks
- Most secure



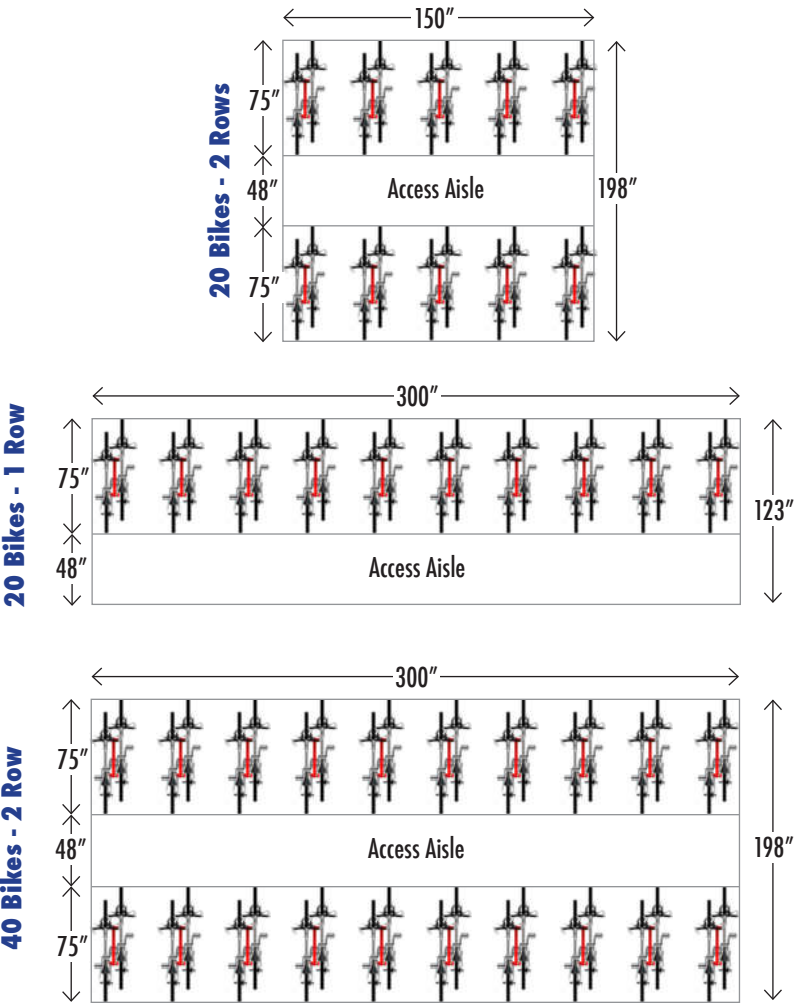
*Riders using U-Locks will often park across a grid rack, greatly reducing its capacity*



## 2. Capacity and Space Use

Once you know how many bike you need to accommodate, you can plan your bike parking space using the diagrams below as a guide for recommended space use.

**How much space do I need?** That will depend on a number of factors. A typical bike needs an area of approximately 1' x 6' to park efficiently and still allow easy access to each bike. This page shows some diagrams which illustrate the approximate space use of typical bike parking configurations and standard bike sizes.

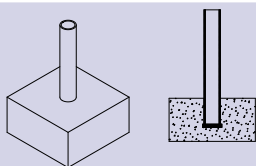


### 3. Installation Surface

**Concrete** is the best and least expensive surface material for a variety of rack types and installation methods. Both in-ground and surface mounts work well on concrete and are easy to install.

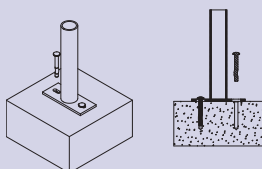
Other hard surfaces such as **asphalt, pavers** or **tile** may or may not be suitable for a surface mounted option. Factors affecting the suitability of these materials include the thickness of the surface material, the makeup of the below grade material, and climate. Freestanding racks are recommended for these surface types.

For **organic materials** such as mulch, dirt and grass, you will need a bike rack with a freestanding option, or you may pour concrete footings to anchor the rack down.



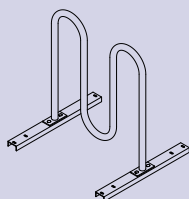
#### In-Ground Mount

- Concrete, grass, asphalt
- May not be suitable for other surfaces



#### Surface (Foot) Mount

- Concrete



#### Rail (Freestanding) Mount

- Suitable on all surfaces



## Safe Routes to School Packages

Package prices include either a surface or in-ground mount and a finish of either galvanized or standard powder coat color.

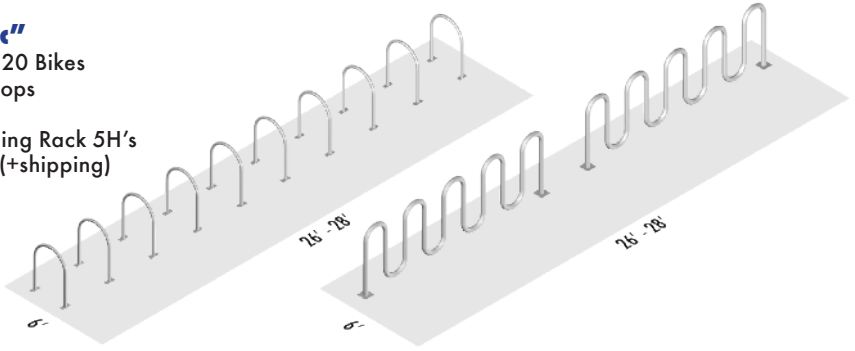
All Dero products are eligible for SRTS discounts. Contact us at 1-888-337-6729 for more information.

### "Basic"

Parks 20 Bikes  
10 Hoops

-or-

2 Rolling Rack 5H's  
**\$950** (+shipping)

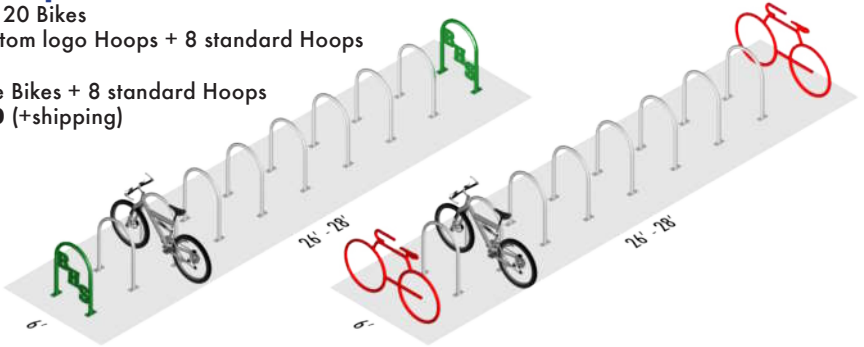


### "School Spirit"

Parks 20 Bikes  
2 Custom logo Hoops + 8 standard Hoops

-or-

2 Bike Bikes + 8 standard Hoops  
**\$1250** (+shipping)



### "Safe Harbor"

Parks 42 Bikes  
16' Shelter with 7 Hoop Racks  
2 Bike Lockers for staff (Each parks 2 Bikes)  
12 additional Hoop Racks  
**\$12,000** (+shipping)



### **Safe Routes Links/Resources**

National Center for Safe Routes to School

<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>

SRTS Coordinators by State

<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/contacts/index.cfm>

The National SRTS Partnership

<http://bikesbelong.org/page.cfm?PageID=250>

Marin County SRTS Program

One of the original Pilot Programs and one of the most successful

<http://www.saferoutestoschools.org/index.html>

Sustrans

A pioneer of safe routes to school in the UK

<http://www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk/>



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